

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 DOE-11 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-15 OES-07 SP-02

SS-15 STR-06 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 /125 W

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R 191415Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4026

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

USMISSION USNATO

UNCLAS SOFIA 0110

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, BU

SUBJECT: COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ORDERS TEMPORARY POWER CUT BACKS

REF: A) ANKARA 0143; B) SOFIA 0060

1. ACCORDING TO PARTY NEWSPAPER RABOTNICHESKO DELO OF JAN 19, THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HAS ISSUED A DECISION CALLING FOR TEMPORARY ELECTRICAL POWER CUTBACKS TO DOMESTIC USERS.

2. THE SOFIA CITY COUNCIL THEN ISSUED AN INSTRUCTION ORDERING THAT HEATING APPLIANCES NOT BE USED DURING PEAK SHAVING HOURS OF 0700-1030 AND 1800-2200 DAILY. IN ADDITION, THE CITY COUNCIL ANNOUNCED THAT VARIOUS PARTS OF THE CITY WOULD "SEQUENTIALLY" EXPERIENCE POWER OUTAGES OF 2-3 HOURS PER DAY IN ACCORDANCE WITH A DEFINITE SCHEDULE. CITIZENS ARE ADVISED TO TAKE NOTE OF TODAY'S POWER CUT-OFF IN THEIR UNCLASSIFIED

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REGION TO DETERMINE THE SCHEDULE WHICH WILL BE IN FORCE. COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE SECTOR ARE ALSO ENJOINED TO REDUCE ELECTRICAL USAGE. (A RADIO ANNOUNCEMENT JAN 18 MENTIONED THAT POWER WOULD ALSO BE CUT TO SOME OF THE LARGER ELECTRICITY USERS IN THE CITY.) THERE WAS NO REFERENCE TO POWER BEING CUT IN OTHER AREAS OF THE COUNTRY, NOR WAS THERE AN INDICATION

AS TO REASON FOR THE CUTBACKS, OR FOR HOW LONG THE CUTS
WILL CONTINUE.

3. COMMENT: POWER SHORTAGES IN SOFIA ARE NOT A RARITY.
DURING THE PAST MONTH, FOR EXAMPLE, ELECTRICITY HAS BEEN
OUT IN SEVERAL AREAS OF THE CAPITAL AT VARIOUS TIMES.
STREET LIGHTING HAS OCCASIONALLY BEEN REDUCED (INCLUDING
LAST NIGHT) AS AUTHORITIES ATTEMPT TO CUT DEMAND. WHAT
IS RARE IS THAT THE CENTRAL AUTHORITIES HAVE PUBLICLY
CALLED ATTENTION TO THE ELECTRICITY PROBLEM. THIS MAY
INDICATE THAT THE PROBLEM OF SUPPLY OF ELECTRICAL ENERGY
IS BECOMING ACUTE AND IS EXPECTED TO REMAIN SO FOR SOME
TIME. IN ADDITION, THE ANNOUNCEMENT LENDS FURTHER EVIDENCE
SUPPORTING THE CONCLUSIONS (REFS A AND B) THAT RECENT
POWER TRANSMISSION CURTAILMENTS TO TURKEY WERE, INDEED,
THE RESULT OF TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES AND NOT DIRECTLY
CONNECTED WITH ANY BULGARIAN PRESSURE ON TURKEY. END COMMENT.

4. BACKGROUND ON BULGARIAN ELECTRICITY SITUATION.
BULGARIAN PRODUCTION OF ELECTRICITY DURING 1977 PROBABLY
WAS 30 BILLION KILOWATT HOURS (KWH) AND IS SLATED TO
INCREASE TO 32.2 BILLION KWH IN 1978. MOST OF THE
PRODUCTION COMES FROM THERMAL AND HYDROELECTRIC SOURCES,
BUT WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF NUCLEAR POWER GENERATING
STATIONS AT KOZLUYDOY ON THE DANUBE RIVER, NUCLEAR ENERGY
IS TO ACCOUNT FOR SOME 17 PERCENT OF 1978'S TOTAL OUTPUT OF
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ELECTRICITY.

5. IN ADDITION, BULGARIA IMPORTED SOME 4 BILLION KWH
OF ELECTRICITY IN 1978, 3.9 BILLION KWH FROM THE USSR,
WITH SMALLER AMOUNTS FROM YUGOSLAVIA (57.3 MILLION KWH),
GDR (22.3 MILLION KWH) AND MARGINAL QUANTITIES FROM TURKEY
(5.4 MILLION KWH) AND OTHER CEMA COUNTRIES.

6. IN TURN, BULGARIAN EXPORTS OF ELECTRICITY IN 1978
AMOUNTED TO 479.5 MILLION KWH, 70 PERCENT OF WHICH WAS TRANS-
MITTED TO TURKEY (337.6 MILLION KWH) AND ABOUT 28 PERCENT
(132.4 MILLION KWH) TO YUGOSLAVIA. SMALLER AMOUNTS ARE
TRANSMITTED TO OTHER CEMA MEMBERS.
GARTHOFF

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